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DAWN BREAKER

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
AAUW OF MAINE
WINTER 2008/09
VOLUME 56, NUMBER 1**



President's Message **by Charmin Goehring-Fox**

Welcome back to a new and exciting AAUW year! This Fall promises to be full of interesting AAUW activity. Your AAUW state board and branch leadership are busy planning events that will inform and entertain you. We look toward the future and how AAUW of Maine will operate under the restructured Association and Educational Foundation.

In September, we will have an excellent opportunity to test a newly developed leadership training tool that uses DVD technology to create an inclusive training for all members. We are fortunate to have Dr. Gail Nordmoe, a long time AAUW leader from Connecticut, to guide us through the activity and invite all members to join in. We will be meeting at the University of Maine, Orono on **September 27, 2008** (look for more information inside). The Presque Isle branch is also busy planning our other premiere event-the Annual AAUW Meeting and Convention to be held **May 1-2, 2009**. Mark your calendars now -- you won't want to miss it! I heard many say that last year's convention was the best ever and I am sure Presque Isle's members are up to the challenge of taking this year's convention to the next level!

For months now, we have been hearing about AAUW's organizational restructuring and about AAUW's new value promise: *By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.* Our strength is our membership and the work we do at the grassroots level to address education and equity for women and girls. Keep this in mind as you move throughout the upcoming year. Make opportunities and take time to write letters to the editor, join with another women's group to host an event, or talk to your elected officials about an issue affecting women and girls. We have seen significant victories on the pay equity front in the past couple of weeks, but we still have a long way to go toward full equity. Women will be a key voting force this November. You can help register those in your community to vote and inform them about the candidates' positions on AAUW issues (position papers can be found at www.aauw.org). AAUW membership is declining, so I ask every member to commit to introducing at least one person to AAUW this year. We have much to offer women of all ages-focusing on our mission is key.

I feel fortunate to have been selected to serve as your AAUW of Maine State President. However, my energy alone will not move our organization forward! It will take each of you joining with me to move us along a path that will guarantee that women and girls in Maine enjoy the rights and equitable life that they, and we, so richly deserve. I hope each of you will commit to at least one new activity this year in AAUW, whether that is serving on either a branch or the State board, bringing in one new member, joining one new committee, writing one letter to the editor or to an elected official. Imagine if we all stretched ourselves just a little bit more how far-reaching the result could be!

Thank you and have a wonderful AAUW year! I look forward to seeing you at your branch activities and at AAUW of Maine events!

AAUW WEBSITES

TERRIFIC NEWS FROM CHARMEN! Marilyn Leimbach has graciously established an AAUW of Maine website. <http://www.aauwmaine.org>. KUDOS to Marilyn for this achievement!

If you are having trouble working with the national AAUW website (www.aauw.org) please do not hesitate to contact me. As editor of the *Dawn Breaker*, I have used the site quite a bit and may be able to help (bbrown@fairpoint.net, 207-445-4967).

**In this election year,
remember:**

**It's a man's world
unless women vote!**

Shake Up Your Program Planning

Almost every branch might have noticed that, when you do something new, it generates a bit of fresh interest, involves new people, and sparks new ideas. So, it would seem like an obvious solution to stagnant membership and flagging participation would be to initiate change, right?

But wait! Aren't we also the ones who are famous for clinging dearly to our old habits, just because they are comfortable, established, and therefore easy?

Caring members, in the interest of remaining vital and continuing to attract new women to our fold, I cannot urge you strongly enough to be mindful of shaking things up, just a bit, as you plan and conduct your meetings.

- Be creative in your programming and proactive in your recruiting!
- Try to do one new thing, or an old thing in a new way, as you conduct your meetings.
- Open some of your meeting programs to the public, and be sure to have membership materials on hand.
- Send out press releases. Publicize your meetings, both before and after.

For additional ideas on recruiting and programming, be sure to consult www.aauw.org, contact your Program VP at prathbun@maine.rr.com, or call me at 762-1791.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Rathbun

Report of Bylaws Chair Betsy Eggleston, 2008- 09

Since becoming AAUW of Maine's Bylaws Chair, I have received copies of most branches bylaws and the state's. I will be working with each branch to make sure their bylaws are revised to reflect the decision by national AAUW to resign from the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). This decision requires that all state and branch bylaws be revised if necessary to remove any reference to AAUW being a member of IFUW.



Wanted: College/University Members

Because only four colleges/universities (C/Us) have renewed their AAUW membership, please encourage the presidents of higher education institutions in your area to join AAUW. The C/U members in Maine include: Colby College, Thomas College, University of Maine, and University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Membership is based on the number of students enrolled in the institution. For additional information about C/U membership, please refer to the AAUW Web site or contact Betty-Jane Meader at meaderb@thomas.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Plans are already underway for the **2009 AAUW of Maine Annual State Convention**, to be held in Presque Isle. Mark your calendars now for **May 1-2, 2009**, and plan to head north for what promises to be a full weekend, with informative speakers, presentation of awards, and plenty of opportunity for social networking.

With two colleges and a biathlon center in town, we have a wealth of resources to provide good speakers on interesting topics and to offer a unique experience, with programming tailored to AAUW members. We plan to extend an invitation to our Canadian neighbors to join us and to add an international flavor to the weekend, thus renewing the Maine-Canada Connection that was established several years ago.

The event will be held at the Northeastland Hotel, where the food is tasty, the rooms are both comfy and affordable (at \$75/night), and great shopping is located in the nearby shops.

Watch for more details in the next edition of the *Dawn Breaker*.

WOMEN AS ACTIVISTS – CAN YOU GUESS WHO'S WHO? (answers on page 6)

- A. Zora Neale Hurston
- B. Fariba Davoodi Mohajer
- C. Virginia Apgar
- D. Alice Freeman Palmer
- E. Sarah Winnemucca
- F. Nellie Tayloe Ross
- G. Ngawang Sangdrol

1. Iranian feminist fighting for women's rights
2. First woman governor of a state in the United States
3. Tibetan nun and prisoner of conscience working to free Tibet
4. President of Wellesley College
5. Published first book written by a Native American woman
6. Preservation of black culture and traditions
7. Develop scoring system for raising a newborn's pulse, respiration, muscle tone and reflexes.

Member Leader Focus 2008

September 27, 2008

University of Maine, Orono

Hill Auditorium

9-1pm

Guest Facilitator: Dr. Gail Nordmoe

Join us for an in-depth look at leadership development for member leaders. We will be joined by Dr. Gail Nordmoe, Executive VP/Secretary for AAUW, who will act as facilitator for a new interactive DVD training series developed by Association. In addition to reflecting the mission and providing topical overviews, how-to's, and nuts-and-bolts information, the DVD material will also support AAUW's value promise: ***By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*** This series replaces the former Conference of State Leaders, one of the cost saving measures implemented, as well as a way to reach more members effectively. Successful examples from states and branches will also be highlighted. We are so lucky to have Gail with us and will benefit from her years of leadership to both Association and her home state of Connecticut.

Whether you are currently serving in an AAUW leadership position, have served in the past or are thinking of it for the future, you will benefit from learning more about our organization and the direction we are heading. Lunch will be provided by campus catering for a nominal cost of \$5 or you may bring your own. The Fall State Board meeting will follow the workshop and lunch until 3:30-all are invited to stay and provide input.

Please return the slip below so that we may better plan materials, lunch and snacks. Checks for lunch may be made out to AAAUW Maine.

Member Leader Focus 2008

September 27, 2008

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Lunch _____ Yes (Please send check for \$5 made out to AAUW of Maine)
_____ No, I will bring my own

Please return reservation slip (and check for lunch) to Charmen Goehring-Fox, 25 LedgeWood Drive, Hollis, ME 04042 by **Sept. 19**. You may also email your reservation to charminme@yahoo.com.

MOVEMENT IN THE BRANCHES!

Presque Isle Branch News

Pat Rathbun

Well, it's not uncommon behavior for us, but Presque Isle must confess to flying by the seat of our pants in planning for the upcoming year. Initial planning by Deb McGann and Anja Whittington has gotten the rest of us galvanized to complete the task, which will be accomplished mostly by e-mail. Modern technology has certainly changed the way we can do things! Several great ideas have been proposed, with stimulating speakers and informative workshops in the mix, so the possibilities are exciting. Our focus remains to encourage opportunities for women, promoting the Girls Collaborative Project, raising awareness about WAGE issues, expanding technology skills with a GPS workshop, and being inspired by the great adventures and accomplishments of other women.

For us, a very small branch, it is scheduling that always presents the greatest challenge. Our size allows us the advantage of flexibility, but it is a disadvantage when trying to convene enough members at the same time! To counteract this, we often include our county neighbors, Caribou and Houlton, and always appreciate their support. Speaking of size, we are happy to announce that we begin the AAUW year with more members than last year.

Finally, we look forward to joining the other two Aroostook County branches to co-host the Annual State Convention, to be held in Presque Isle, on **May 1-2, 2009**, and we extend a cordial invitation to all. Please plan to attend.

Hancock County Branch

Betsy Eggleston

The Hancock County Branch concluded their 2007-2008 year with a successful plant, books, and food sale in May. The monies raised are used to fund our local scholarships for a high school girls and adults at the local college center. Our June meeting was our potluck dinner and annual meeting. The speaker was Sallie Daniels who is the director of the major mentoring project in our area. She works primarily with students who are among the first in their families to go to college. We discussed with her how our branch might become involved.

Our schedule for the year of 2008-2009 is almost complete. Our first meeting of the coming year will be our annual new member meeting, which starts with a potluck at a member's home in Hancock.

**"And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you risk even more."
--Erica Jong, American writer**

Penobscot Valley

Janet Givens

The Leadership Team of the Penobscot Valley branch has planned an exciting year for the branch starting with a September meeting open to the public with State Representative and branch member, Emily Cain, as our speaker. In October we will learn about the Girls Collaborative from branch member, Sharon Barker with students from the University of Maine as our guests. The Old Town children's librarian will update the branch regarding programs for girls at the library. There are two combination book and craft groups for 10-year-old and 12-14-year-old girls. In January, we will enjoy a strictly social pot luck brunch at the home of member Lee Davis. We will celebrate the 30th birthday of the Maine Women's Lobby with a party and speaker from the Maine Women's Lobby in March. Our annual Book Sale will be held in April in Orono. We will end the year with an annual meeting and dinner at the Faculty Club of the University of Maine.

Midcoast Branch

Larrain Slaymaker

The **Maine Literary Festival** is a scholarship project of the Midcoast Branch of the AAUW. This year's Festival explores the roles of writing, poetry, nature, and science in shaping the way we treat the planet and live our lives. Professor Verlyn Klinkenborg is the 2008 **E.B. and Katharine White Memorial Lecturer**. University of Vermont Professor Emeritus of Biology Bernd Heinrich and *Gourmet* magazine Editor-in-Chief Ruth Reichl headline the Saturday and Sunday sessions, respectively. In addition, some 20 authors, poets, scientists, critics and chefs will participate, among them Kate Braestup, Kathleen Ellis, Annie Finch, Melissa Kelly, Gary Lawless, Sy Montgomery, Molly O'Neill, Michael Rhulman, Jonathan Skinner, Candace Stover, Martha White, Joy Williams, and Sandip Wilson.

Contact: Maryanne Shanahan 207-837-2827,
info@maineliteraryfestival.com.

2008 Convention Leaders Charmen Goehring Fox and Betsy Eggleston



Houlton Branch

Alison Bossie

The Houlton Branch is excited to start our 80th year!! This branch was started in March of 1929 so we will celebrate this year. We will try a different format and incorporate the State meetings in our program in lieu of something local for those months. That includes the September Board Meeting and in October National Girls Collaborative Project. We will continue with our mentoring programs and have an Anniversary Celebration in March or April. Our small but enthusiastic group is looking forward to this anniversary year.

Waterville Branch

Bets Brown

The Waterville Branch of AAUW faces the membership and leadership issues of all branches. At our May 2008 Gala, we created a slightly less demanding leadership structure that now consists of a communications leader, a membership chair, a treasurer, and a programs chair. Others are filling in the positions of newsletter editor, college/university representative, Future Focus program chair, book sale chair, and EF/LAF chair. This new situation offers much promise. We will have one last book sale to sell the last of our books, but will continue the Future Focus event, a career day for 250 eighth grade girls.

We will have a fall supper on September 17 and hear from the director of the Waterville Opera House. Please join us. (We meet on the third Wednesday of each month.) In October, we will discuss key issues related to the election and to women's issues. Many other exciting programs are planned.

Open Board Positions-Consider Serving!

As many branches know, we often find ourselves facing a "leadership crunch." This year's State Board is no different! We are in need of several wonderful people to fill important positions including Membership Vice President and Public Policy. Our State Board can only be as strong as those who serve and we already have some of Maine's most active members on board. If you are passionate about women and equity, and are interested in learning more about serving on the State level, please contact me! We have State Board meetings three times per year (Sept, March and July) and the positions may be less time consuming than you think! We welcome and seek you and new ideas!!

The following positions are available:

Membership Vice President

Public Policy

Nominating Committee members (2 year and 3 year terms)

Parliamentarian

"KEEP MAINE CONNECTED"

from Charmin Goehring-Fox

At our Annual Meeting last May, our Treasurer, Marilyn Leimbach, brought forth a budget that was approved by the membership. The budget reflected a \$2,000 shortfall that the board proposed filling with a development campaign rather than a dues increase. We immediately had three generous members step forward with the first donations! Now, we are ready to finish closing the gap.

As membership numbers decline, less dues income is collected by the State, making the job of serving the membership more difficult. The budgets that we have been running for the past few years have been very lean and the board has been responsible with your dues money. In looking at the 2008-09 budget, the easiest area to cut funding was conventions/regional meetings. However, the board feels that it is important to continue helping to send one or more Maine members to national convention and other regional events that may occur in order to keep Maine connected with AAUW across the country. The networking, ideas collected and knowledge gained are important for our state, especially as we navigate our state and branches into the future. So. . .

We have created the *Keep Maine Connected Campaign* to make up the \$2,000 shortfall in this year's budget. If you are willing and able to donate to this campaign, please send a check made out to "AAUW Maine" with "Keep Maine Connected" on the memo line to Treasurer Marilyn Leimbach, 9 Wilson Park, Waterville, ME 04901. All contributors will be acknowledged in future issues of the *Dawn Breaker* as well as at the Annual Meeting in the Spring. More information will be sent to each member in the coming weeks. Thank you in advanced for your support of this important effort to keep Maine members connected with AAUW!

For additional information or if you have questions, please contact either Marilyn Leimbach at leimbach@gwi.net or 207-873-7243 or Charmin Goehring-Fox at charminme@yahoo.com or 207-756-0506.

Maine Choice Coalition News

The Maine Choice Coalition will be meeting on September 8th at 10:30 am in Augusta. For agenda and location information, contact Chris Quint, Director of Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, 207-510-2201 x105 (office), 207-232-6470 (cell).

Program in a Box: New Tool for Branch Programming Launched

Linda Hallman, CAE

Executive Director of AAUW

Introduction

AAUW members frequently request recommendations for programming for their branches. While many kinds of programs are available — reflecting local preference, priorities, capacity, and capability — the task of identifying appropriate programming is very important for branch effectiveness and member satisfaction. In particular, members seek programming ideas that will help us keep our Value Promise.

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

We keep our promise by focusing every single activity we do, in some way, on Breaking through Barriers. This is how we can build our AAUW brand and increase our membership appeal.

New Tool for Members

With the introduction of a new online resource, Program in a Box, members will be able to go to the Member Center of the website, www.aauw.org, and see a portfolio of program activities for their branches. Emphasis will be placed on mission-based programming that engages the community and provides more strategic focus for monthly branch meetings.

This new tool is actually a collection of programs, each identified as an individual Program in a Box (PIAB). Each PIAB outlines an activity that members could choose for their branch, with the “what, why, and how” to implement that program. Each PIAB has hyperlinks to downloadable resources that provide programming options. Over time, additional resources will be added to some of the posted PIABs to enrich the options and showcase examples of effective branch implementation.

Roll-Out Plan

It is important to understand that the Program in a Box site is evolving; more PIABs will be added on an ongoing basis. The PIAB project was undertaken this summer in response to requests from AAUW states and branches for programming assistance. Rather than wait until a full portfolio of program options could be posted, it was decided that launching with some initial PIABs and building inventory rapidly over the next month — with the focus on posting new and time-sensitive programs first — would be the best way to serve members. After the launch, PIABs will be added as new programs are developed and details of effective local programs are provided to staff. Members are reminded on the Program in a Box opening page to check back frequently for new PIAB postings.

Program in a Box Content

The definition of “programs” eligible for inclusion in PIABs will accommodate the wide diversity of interests, involvement, and preferences of our members. PIABs will be applicable to a wide range of AAUW activities — education, advocacy, communications, membership, fundraising, LAF, etc. — that help us keep our Value Promise.

State/branch leaders and members will be encouraged to provide suggestions for additional PIAB postings. As with all web content, posted programs must be relevant and appropriate; when submitting, please identify how the recommended program/activity helps us break through barriers.

As the Program in a Box site becomes more robust, please encourage members and leaders to use this resource as they plan programming for the year. Recommendations for additional Programs in a Box may be e-mailed to programsinaabox@aauw.org.

Maine Women's Lobby's 30th

The Maine Women's Lobby will celebrate its 30th birthday and its many remarkable achievements helping the cause of women in Maine. The big day is September 18, 2008 at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks in South Portland. Karen Morgan - Maine's Funniest Mom - will be sharing her hilarious stories of motherhood, mayhem, and moxie! She'll be joined by event emcee, Lori Voornas, and a host of Maine Women's Lobby leaders. For sponsorship and program book ad opportunities, e-mail us at info@mainewomen.org. Also see <http://www.mainewomen.org>.

2008 Convention Attendees



Women as Activites - Answers
A-6, B-1, C-7, D-4, E-5, F-2, G-3

Achievement Citation Award
Kristin Sweeney, Committee Chair

This year, make a summer resolution for your branch to nominate a candidate for the 2009 Achievement Citation Award and get started **before** the holiday hustle instead of waiting until January. As usual, the deadline is January 31, 2009. Nomination forms and instructions will be sent to the Branches in the Fall.

Follow up that **Summer Resolution** with **Autumn Resolve** to nominate a candidate for the 2009 Achievement Citation Award and get started **before** the holiday frazzle dazzle instead of waiting until January. As usual, the deadline is January 31, 2009. Nomination forms and instructions will be sent to the Branches in October 2008.

The basic requirements include:

- The nominee should be a woman in Maine who has made a distinctive contribution in some AAUW field of interest or study (service to state, to education, to arts, or to humanity, for example).
- The nominee should have a valid connection with the state.
- The nominee should exhibit achievement over and above job-related activities.
- The nominee should be a “pioneer” in her area.

Additional considerations include:

- The nominee does **not** have to be a member of AAUW and does **not** have to be an “unsung” heroine.
- The achievement does **not** have to be employment related.
- Other qualifications may be non-traditional fields and significant contribution to community/region/state, women’s issues, or a particular field.

The Achievement Citation Award nomination parameters below, when complete, should not be more than one page long.

NOMINATION FORM
2008 ACHIEVEMENT CITATION AWARD

Candidate’s name, address, birthplace, birth date:

Education:

Professional experience:

Volunteer experience:

Present occupation or profession:

Active affiliations:

Notable achievements and awards:

Submitted by _____

Branch _____

PROPOSED CHANGES PRESENT A TURNING POINT FOR AAUW

Patricia Ho, New England Regional Director

AAUW has advanced through profound turning points, beginning with the 2005 Strategic Process, powered by member support for change. At Convention 2007, members unanimously endorsed the new directions indicated by this restructuring and charged the Bylaws Committee with proposing bylaws that would align new structure and governance with the intent of the Strategic Process.

The **draft proposed bylaws** present yet another positive challenge, another turning point for its member community – either to consider and support what needs to be done in refocusing AAUW, or to stand by past practices. Members are asked to consider new ways of achieving our mission in an ever-changing sociological, economic, political and technological environment. I will try to summarize some of the proposed changes as well as the rationale advanced by the Bylaws Committee.

The bylaws draft is being reviewed by members across the country, and following further revision, will be presented to the Association/EF boards at their October meeting. The proposed bylaws will then be published in the AAUW Spring (2009) *Outlook*, before debate and voting at Convention 2009. The tight timeframe necessitates member feedback by August 30. You are invited to enter suggested changes at www.aauw.org Member Center, “Strategic Process”.

Several proposed articles directly impact states and branches. Purposes are to facilitate greater flexibility in structure, provide members with multiple ways to participate in AAUW, and create closer linkages between members and national AAUW. Members can determine whether or not there will be a **state structure**, or can establish a structure among states. The only requirements would be to further AAUW’s purposes and program, and to designate an administrative contact within the area.

To promote AAUW mission, **branches** may create any leadership structure that meets their needs, provided there is an administrative and a financial contact. Branches must have basic bylaws and will continue to be officially approved through AAUW. A branch may be geographically based or may be an online branch not tied to a geographical area. If there is a state or interstate structure, all branches within that structure will be automatically affiliated.

There are no provisions for the continuation of geographic **regions** as currently exist, so these entities would end. However, geographic areas or combinations of states would be other options for advancing mission-based program. It is being considered that the role of regional director will evolve

into field staff positions and trained volunteers who will work directly with members.

The greatest proposed change is the composition of **membership**. “Any individual or institution who supports the purpose and mission of AAUW may become a member of AAUW.” This is a natural outcome of our mission and our Value Promise – *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance*. An educational requirement can be discriminatory on the basis of income, class and ethnicity. AAUW cannot claim to break through barriers on behalf of all women if not all women and men can join in its work. This move toward more open membership has been evolving through recent conventions and has gained increasing groundswell support.

Certainly there will be much debate about many aspects of the draft proposed bylaws. The Bylaws Committee invested over a thousand hours in considering many data points within the context of the strategic process as they crafted this draft. To participate in the decision-making, consider attending National Convention in St. Louis, June 26 – 28, 2009. Meanwhile, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me at PatriciaHoAAUWMA@aol.com

NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is an initiative that was developed to create collaboration between organizations, businesses, educational institutions and individuals serving girls in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related fields. NGCP is funded by the National Science Foundation and the leadership for the Maine Girls Collaborative Project (MGCP) is provided through the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) at the University of Maine.

A big part of the National Girls Collaborative Project is the creation of a Program Directory of girl-serving projects. The Program Directory allows organizations interested in creating more opportunities for girls in STEM to register and learn about similar organizations in their area. To date there are 16 registered organizations on the Maine directory. This is one way AAUW branches could get involved—put a representative from your branch on the directory. Some of the many things we might offer are women mentors, space, food, advertising, program planning and implementation the list is endless. The Maine AAUW would be excited to see every branch registered!! Visit <http://www.pugetsoundcenter.org/ngcp/directory/programsearch.cfm> to register your branch.

(continued on next page)

NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT (continued)

Another big part of the NGCP is the mini-grant program. NGCP will make \$1000 mini-grants available to collaborations of 2 or more participating programs who apply through the Program Directory. To date \$35,000 has been designated to the Maine collaborative with \$5,000 of that recently being awarded in July from the Maine Women's Fund. The application process for Maine is currently being developed and further details will be provided as they become more concrete. The application does require entities to collaborate on a project so start brainstorming about who you might like to work with.

On Friday, October 10, 2008 the Maine Project will be holding a kick-off conference. For more information visit www.wrc.umaine.edu. We hope to see you all there!!!

Overall information about NGCP can be found at <http://www.aauw.org/education/ngcp/>.

AAUW POLICY NEWS

Lisa M. Maatz, Director
Public Policy and Government Relations

Aug. 5, 2008 — When the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1338) passed on Thursday, July 31, it was the culmination of a long process — and I don't just mean the 11-year wait pay equity activists and tenacious sponsor Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) have endured just to get a vote. I also mean the roller coaster of the 110th Congress (2007–2008) as well as of the last three weeks. AAUW has long supported the Act, but in the past few years AAUW members and the government relations staff with them were on a mission to put the issue of pay equity back on the congressional radar screen. And thanks to a couple of circumstances, we succeeded in spades.

Policy victories like the one AAUW had last week are team efforts, and they don't happen in a vacuum. They are the result of weeks, months, typically years of work on the part of AAUW staff, member leaders, the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps, and AAUW advocates across the country. See http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/lobbycorps.cfm

A History of Advocacy

Of course, AAUW has been working on the issue of pay equity practically since that first meeting in Boston in 1881 of Marion Talbot and her uppity friends, who had the nerve to think that women should not only be educated but that they should do something productive with that education. AAUW published its first research on equal pay in 1913 and, as early as 1922, our legislative program called for a reclassification of the U.S. Civil Service and for a repeal of salary restrictions in the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau.

In 1955, AAUW supported a bill introduced by Reps. Edith Green (D-OR) and Edith Rogers (R-MA) requiring "equal pay for work of comparable value requiring comparable skills." Congress enacted the Equal Pay Act, a version of the 1955 bill, in 1963. AAUW also supported the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which included Title VII and pay discrimination remedies for women and people of color. At every major battle for pay equity, AAUW has been there — persistent, on the frontlines, demanding simple justice.

Equal Pay Day 2008

"I am the Face of Pay Equity" was AAUW's message for April 22, Equal Pay Day 2008, and AAUW states and branches delivered that message nationwide through a variety of events — from rallies to pay equity bake sales, voter education forums, salary negotiation workshops, and in-district meetings with members of Congress. AAUW members excel at taking the message to the community, and Equal Pay Day was a wonderful example of moving the inside-the-beltway policy work into neighborhoods across the country. And AAUW's grassroots efforts didn't stop there. Our Campus Action Projects at colleges around the country put the *Behind the Pay Gap* research into action, and students held Equal Pay Day-related events to spread the word about pay equity. All of these activities added up to crucial visibility that reminded legislators that voters were watching, and that pay equity was very much on their minds. See <http://www.aauw.org/education/cap/paygap.cfm>

MORE 2008 CONVENTION PHOTOS

Nancy Hutchinson receive an award.



Conventioneers at lunch



BETS BROWN

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AAUW Members Records Office
1111 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

CALENDAR FOR 2008-2009

2008

September 27	AAUW of Maine Fall Conference
October 1	Applications for an elected or appointed AAUW board position (see www.aauw.org)
October 10	Maine Girls Collaborative Project Kickoff
November 20	<i>Dawn Breaker</i> deadline
November 1	Eleanor Roosevelt Fund grant applications due
November 15	American Fellowships grant applications due
December 1	International Fellowships grant applications due
December 15	Career Development grant applications due
December 31	Contribution Report Forms due for the Educational Foundation, the Association, LAF, and the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute

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January 10	Selected Professions Fellowships grant applications due
January 15	Community Action Grant applications due
March 7	Spring Leadership Meeting
March 14	Snow Date for Spring Leadership Meeting
March 15	<i>Dawn Breaker</i> deadline
May 1-2	Maine State Convention
June 26-29	National AAUW Convention, St. Louis
July 1	FY09 Branch Dues Reports Due
July	Summer Leadership Team Meeting-date TBD
August 15	<i>Dawn Breaker</i> deadline